

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-10

NIC-01 /060 W

----- 116629

O 150654Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2882

INFO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG ONG 12458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CHIUG KUAN-HUA NAMED PRC FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THE NAMING OF CHIAO KUAN-HUA TO REPLACE CHI PENG-FEI AS PRC FOREIGN MINISTER, REPORTED BY FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE FROM PEKING NOVEMBER 15, IS NOT A TOTAL SURPRISE HERE, ALTHOUGH THE TIMING--- TEN DAYS BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN PEKING-- IS OBVIOUSLY SIGNIFICANT. THE IMPLICATION WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT CHIAO WILL TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THE COMING TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY. IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN THE NUANCE IS THIS CHANGE COULD BE THAT THE AILING CHOU IS TO KEEP A CLOSE PERSONAL CONTROL OVER SINO-U.S. NEGOTIATIONS, WORKING THROUGH HIS LONG-TIME AIDE CHIAO, RATHER THAN TURN THIS SUBJECT OVER TO VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING WHO HAS INCREASINGLY MOVED IN TO TAKE OVER THE PREMIER'S DUTIES IN OTHER AREAS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. ANOTHER REASON FOR SPECULATING THAT THE TIMING OF THE CHANGE IS RELATED TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT THE CONVENING OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IS NEAR TO HAND. IT WOULD REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT A CHANGE SUCH AS THIS IN THE STATE COUNCIL WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN HELD UP FOR THE MEETING OF THE CONGRESS WHICH HAS AS A

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KEY RESPONSIBILITY THE FORMAL DESIGNATION OF MINISTERIAL POSTS.

3. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SOME MONTHS. AS LONG AGO AS LAST YEAR CHI WAS DESCRIBED BY SOME OBSERVERS AS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS ROLE AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND EARLIER THIS YEAR PG CADRE IN HONG KONG

WERE ACTIVELY TELLING U.S. NEWSMEN THAT VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO WAS ON HIS WAY UP AND A MAN TO WATCH. CHIAO CLEARLY HAS LONG ENJOYED MUCH HIGHER RESPECT THAN CHI IN FOREIGN EYES, AND HE IS INDISPUTABLY MUCH CLOSER TO PREMIER CHOU PERSONALLY.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CH, (CHIAO KUAN-HUA)  
**To:** STATE  
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